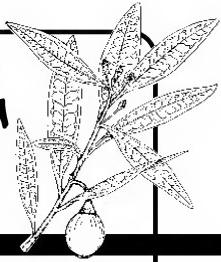


The BAY LEAF

February 2001



California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

Calendar of Events

February 2, 9, 16, and 23, FRIDAYS:

- **Native Here Nursery open**, 9 a.m.-12 noon (see p. 3).

February 3, SATURDAY:

- **Native plant restoration at Gwin Canyon** (see p. 3).

February 3, 10, 17, and 24, SATURDAYS:

- **Native Here Nursery open**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (see p. 3).

February 6, 13, 20, and 27, TUESDAYS:

- **Plant sale work sessions** for the Fall 2001 plant sale (see p. 2).

February 7, W EDN ESDAY:

- **Board of Directors' meeting** at the home of Holly Forbes, 7128 Blake St., El Cerrito. 7:30 p.m. All members welcome.

February 10, SATURDAY:

- **Deadline for March Bay Leaf**. Give items to Brett Boltz.

February 28, W EDN ESDAY:

- **Membership meeting** (see below).

February 24, SATURDAY:

- **Field trip to Redwood Regional Park** (see p. 4).

March 7, W EDN ESDAY:

- **Board of Directors' meeting** at the home of Charli Danielsen, 10 Kerr Ave., Kensington. 7:30 p.m. All members welcome.

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 28 ♦ 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Matteo Garbelotto

Sudden Oak Death, A New Disease Threatening California's Oaks

In 1995, a mysterious oak-killing disease was discovered in Marin County. Since then, it has been identified in six coastal counties of central California, where it has killed tens of thousands of coast live oaks, tanoaks, and California black oaks. The pathogen believed to cause the disease, a previously unknown species of the *Phytophthora* fungus, is now also believed to cause disease in ornamental rhododendrons in Europe. Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, a plant pathologist who serves as Extension Specialist and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at UC Berkeley, is a leading researcher in the effort to

understand this new disease, termed Sudden Oak Death or Oak Mortality Syndrome. Dr. Garbelotto will discuss the history, diagnosis, and distribution of Sudden Oak Death, the fascinating story of isolating and identifying the causative agent, and current ideas on managing the disease.

The meeting will take place in the Conference Center of the University of California Botanical Garden on Centennial Drive, east of Memorial Stadium, above the main campus of the University of California in Berkeley. The Garden gate will open at 7 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. CNPS books and other publications will be on display and available for purchase. Please contact Holly Forbes, 234-2913, if you have any questions.

President's Message

A New CNPS for the New Millennium?

As mentioned in a couple of my previous President's Messages, CNPS is currently undergoing a Governance Restructuring procedure, as an outgrowth of the nearly complete Strategic Planning process that has taken much of the last year. Based on opinions and ideas solicited from around the state, a preliminary draft of a new Governance Structure has been prepared by Marc Smiley, our contracted facilitator, which is posted at <http://www.cnps.org/planning/restructuring.htm>. Although you will not be reading this in time to provide comments by the January 24 deadline, a second opportunity for input from members will be available before the March 3 state board meeting. Highlights of proposed changes include the following:

- A Chapters Council consisting of a representative from each Chapter, plus chairs of the various Program Committees as ex officio members. This body, in addition to fulfilling basic governance responsibilities (e.g., electing board of directors, changing by-laws), has primary responsibility for determining policy and general societal direction. This will entail updating the CNPS strategic plan every three years, which will serve to determine the approved framework within which all CNPS activities can take place. Unlike the current Board of Directors, the Chapters Council will NOT be involved in determining specific details within the approved framework, freeing the Council instead for more productive activities, such as increased interactions among Chapters.
- Within the new structure, a leaner, meaner Board of Directors will consist of the legally required officers of the non-profit corporation (Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer), several at-large members, and several representatives from the Chapters Council. This group has fiduciary responsibility for CNPS and oversees the Executive Director, working through the Executive Director to oversee the paid staff.
- Currently existing committees will be reorganized to reflect the programs defined by the Strategic Plan. The resultant Governing Committees would be the Executive Committee, Resource Development, Board Development, Finance Committee, and Chapter Relations, with other ad hoc committees established as needed. Program Committees to match those in our new Strategic Plan are plant science, education, advocacy/conservation, horticulture, and stewardship. If needed, subcommittees would be established to deal with specific issues (e.g. UC-Merced).

The Governance Restructuring proposal also addresses the critical issue of lines of authority, which has been the source of multiple problems in past years.

If you have an interest in this pivotal process (as I hope you all do!), be sure to check out the website for full details, or ask an officer for a hard copy. If something concerns you, remember, this is still a PRELIMINARY DRAFT. I, for one, feel that we are definitely moving in a direction that, even with the many loose ends that will need working out, will allow us to accomplish more with less wasted effort, with fewer pitfalls, and with a lot more fun and satisfaction. Stay tuned!

. . . Barbara Ertter

Plant Sale Activities



Work sessions this month:
Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27.
9 a.m. - noon

Merritt College Landscape Horticulture area

We will be potting into soil the rooted cuttings from the greenhouse and preparing more cuttings to take their places.

This time of year presents an opportunity for anyone interested in propagation to begin attending and to follow the developing plants' growth through to our sale in October.

Look for us in the nursery area at Merritt, rain or shine; dress for a possible wet/cold morning. (Layers work well.)

Details: two quarters for the parking fee machine, and bring a lunch if you can stay.

Any questions: (925)376-4095.

. . . Plant Sale Volunteers

Native Plant Restoration Activities

Native Here Nursery

The nursery continues to be open every Friday (9 a.m.-noon) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.). New volunteers are always welcome. Just come in and let Charli or Margot know you are ready to help. We'll put you to work. Many of the seeds collected in 2000 are becoming little plants. We need help getting them into appropriate sized containers, keeping the pine needles off them, moving them to the appropriate spot in the nursery. Older plants need to find homes. Maybe yours! Come in and shop for those wonderful habitat fillers such as grasses, asters, bulb plants that will bloom later in Spring. There is even still time to plant shrubs and trees before the wet season ends.

The nursery is in Tilden Park, at 101 Golf Course Drive, across from the main entrance to the Golf Course. It's a convenient stop halfway between the Tilden Botanic Garden and UC Botanical Garden. There is also a fine reference library in the nursery office that members are welcome to browse.

Lumber is needed to construct more "plant platforms." Those we have now are made from old redwood decks and fences that were torn out to build new ones. If you are rebuilding and have 2" lumber of any width and lengths that you would like to be rid of, please contact the Danielsens, 525-9076 or the nursery 549-0211.

Restoration of a Native Bunchgrass and Wildflower Grassland

Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park

Seeds collected in 2000 were sown into the project area on December 31 before the Bryophyte field trip.

Observations of the site that day indicated the mustard has persisted and benefited from the fire. Hand pulling is in order. Anyone interested? Phone Charli at 525-9076.

Yellow star thistle will be the target in July. Mowers will be needed in April. Look for the date of a mower training session in March in the next *Bay Leaf*.

. . . Charli Danielsen

Native Plant Restoration Team

The Team enjoyed a great day under the redwoods at Canyon School on January 6. We cleared a large slope of Himalayan blackberry, vinca and French broom, making way for pink flowering currant, hazelnut, bigleaf maple, redwood seedlings, bracken fern, honeysuckle, clematis and other jewels.

Please join the Team for an afternoon of work on February 3 at our site in Oakland's Gwin Canyon. We will see how the progress continues on our combined effort with Ed Leong and the EBRPD against the Chilean mayten tree, French broom and other invasive exotics. This is an excellent site to learn your local brush and associated species of native plants!

Meet at 1 p.m. at Native Here Nursery on Saturday, Feb. 3, or on site at the northern dead end of Devon Way at Strathmoor (hard to find/weird streets, bring a map; also, parking is tight) at 1:45 p.m. Wear pants and a long sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes, a water bottle and rain coat just in case. We have gloves and tools to lend. Heavy rain cancels; call 510 840-9367 if the sky is threatening.

On March 3 we will work in Arrowhead Marsh with Save the Bay; April 7 is Gwin Canyon; May 5 is a joint day with Friends of Orinda Creeks, June 2 is Skyline Serpentine Prairie. Mark your calendars! For a monthly Team email update, please send a note to casartunda@aol.com.

. . . Noah Booker

At the December Board Meeting

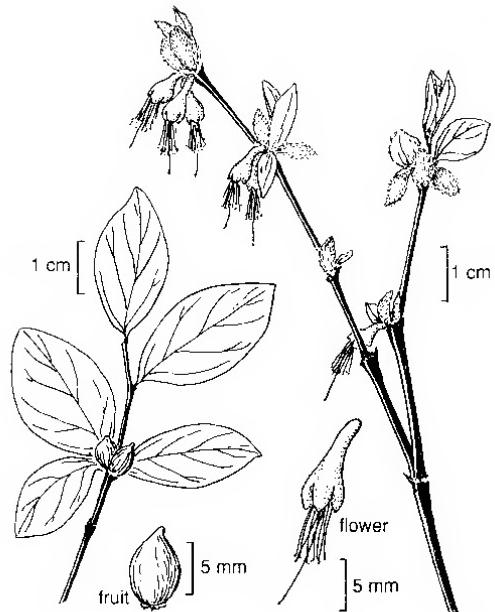
At the Chapter Board of Directors' meeting on January 3, 2001, the following motion passed:

- That a committee consisting of Sue Bainbridge, Barbara Etter, John Game and Joanne Kerbavaz draft and formally submit comments by the January 31, 2001 deadline regarding the current UC proposal to build the UC-Merced campus on a golf course in Merced.

Field Trip

 Saturday, February 24: Roy Buck will lead a field trip to **Redwood Regional Park** featuring leatherwood in flower (*Dirca occidentalis*). The trip will start at 10 a.m. and last until about 3 p.m. The route will include some steep hill climbs on a 4-5 mile loop, including a vertical gain of 600-700 feet. Participants will cross through redwood forest, mixed evergreen forest, coastal scrub and a small chaparral area. Bring lunch and water.

Participants should take the Joaquin Miller Road exit from Highway 13. Follow Joaquin Miller Road uphill and east to its intersection with Skyline Boulevard. Turn left onto Skyline Blvd. and follow it about 1.2 miles. The Sequoia Arena will appear on the left before the parking lot for Redwood Regional Park. The new parking lot and access road are paved and will appear on the right shortly after passing the Sequoia Arena. The parking lot for the new Chabot Observatory is separate and beyond the parking lot for Redwood Regional Park. Water and bathrooms are available close to the parking lot. It is still unclear if East Bay Regional Parks will be charging for the use of the new lot by the time of the field trip, but bring \$4 for parking to be safe.



leatherwood
(Dirca occidentalis)

Illustration from *The Jepson Manual*, edited by James C. Hickman,
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The Wayne Roderick Lectures

Winter 2000-2001

The annual Wayne Roderick Lecture Series is being held at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive in Tilden Park, Berkeley (841-8732). The lectures are held on Saturday mornings

as indicated, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon, and are free to the public. These programs will conclude the lecture series for this season.

February 3

Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve (plus plants) and an introduction to the Bedrock Geology of the East Bay

Speaker

Steve Edwards

February 17

A Paleobotanical Study of Catalina Ironwood and Its Changing Environments

Speaker

Diane Erwin

February 10

Adventures in the Ecological Restoration of Walnut Creek

Speaker

Dan McCright

February 24

East Bay Natural History at First European Contact

Steve Edwards

2001 Board of Directors

Elected Officers

President:

Barbara Erter 1859 Catalina Ave., Berkeley 94707 h/ 526-4592
w/ 643-0600

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Holly Forbes 7128 Blake St., El Cerrito 94530 234-2913
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Corresponding:

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Bay Leaf Editor

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w/ 643-0448

Recorded Chapter Information: 464-4977

CNPS Home Page: <http://www.cnps.org>

East Bay Chapter CNPS Home Page:

<http://www.ebcnps.org>

Chapter CNPS-EB-Alerts E-mail List

Find out more; email to listserv@usobi.org with:
INFO CNPS-EB-ALERTS

All area codes are 510 unless noted



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New Membership Application

The California Native Plant Society is open to all. The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, and conservation. Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly journal *Fremontia*.

Name _____

Membership category:

- Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20
- Individual, Library, \$35
- Household, Family, or Group, \$45
- Supporting, \$75
- Plant lover, \$100
- Patron, \$250
- Benefactor, \$500
- Life, \$1000

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

Mail application and check to:

Membership Chairman, California Native Plant Society, 1722 JSt., Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Activities of Others

Kids in Gardens, a workshop for educators of grades K-12 working in Contra Costa county, will take place on Saturdays, March 3 and 10, at Mira Vista School , Richmond. (This is a **two-day** workshop). Learn about butterfly, native plant, vegetable and schoolyard wildlife habitat gardens, get a free worm composting box, curriculum guides, and more. \$25 fee. For more information and a registration form, call Sharyl McGrew at 231-5783.

Kids in Creeks, another workshop for K-12 educators working in Contra Costa county, will take place on Saturdays, April 28 and May 5. Location to be announced. \$25 fee. For more information call Jen Brown at 231-5784.

Mediterranean Wildflower Tour of Greece, mainland and Crete (April 16-May 1) and an extension to Turkey (May 1-6). Enjoy springtime in Greece with walks

through the countryside to discover and photograph wildflowers, guided by George Sfikas, botanist and author of *Wildflowers of Greece* and *Wildflowers of Crete*. Katherine Greenberg, garden designer and president of The Mediterranean Garden Society will escort this tour which is sponsored by Pacific Horticulture Magazine and Strybing Arboretum. For information contact Geostar Travel, Santa Rosa, CA. (707) 579-2420.

Oakland Museum seeks volunteer tour guides. The Oakland Museum of California is looking for volunteer hosts in the galleries of art, history and natural sciences for the spring of 2001. Hosts should have an enthusiasm for working with school groups in a museum setting. Training sessions with museum professionals and experienced docents will be held on Tuesday afternoons, January 30-February 27. For more information call 238-3514.

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
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